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JO STAFFORD

Capitol news

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Chicago's Hotel Sherman topped all other offers for Kay Starr, and she will follow her Windy City run, in May, by tackling Barney Josephson's Cafe Society in New York.

The Oklahoma-born oriole, who was reared in Memphis, who toured 41 states and is currently maintaining a home in California, sweeps into the big eastern villages for the first time as a single. Her new records, with Dave Cavanaugh's crack Hollywood studio orchestra behind her big, throaty pipings, have done much to shove Kay into top-money circles. Intelligent management by Berle Adams also has aided her rise. And untold jocks and reviewers, in little towns and big towns, have done their bit too.

It's all adding up to success. (And those looks don't hurt, either).

Jo Stafford (April Cover Gal) was advised by George Gallup's Audience Research, Inc., that she commands the "most enthusiastic following of any female singer." Among all the people who have heard her on the twice-weekly Chesterfield show and on wax, ARI declared, 60 per cent selected Jo as their fave performer. Her new album—a surprise item—will be released in late April.

Horace Henderson, back in L. A. after two years in Salt Lake City, kicking up a stir with a good little band paced by Little Smack's pianny.

Ink Spots hit L. A. March 29.

Joe Adams, first Negro jockey on west coast, landed regular spot on Santa Monica's KOWL. Joe got his first break in 1945, courtesy of Al Jarvis.

Mardi Gras Ballroom, formerly the Casa Manana and L. A. Meadowbrook, is using non-union orks. First time a major dancery has defied Petrillo in a decade or more.



They Laughed When He Sat Down . . .

BENNY GOODMAN will shift into high and take a new sextet into Frank Palumbo's Click Club in Philly on May 24, marking his return to the road after more than a year of inactivity (except for sporadic concerts) in Southern California. Benny is even ambitious enough, at this point, to assert that he and his group will play additional eastern locations this summer, and he'll shortly move his wife and youngsters back to their Connecticut manse for the season. As for that trip to Venezuela, Benny never quite got around to it although his trunks were packed and passports arranged.

That's Benny. And how much stick can YOU play?

Uphill On An Underwood

WOODY HERMAN'S choice for the bass-plucking post with the Herman herd was a soft-spoken Texan, Harry Babasin, who broke up his own small combo to make the trip east with Woodrow. Babasin replaces Walt Yoder, who is road managing the band as it works its way to Gotham for a late-April opening at the Hotel Commodore. Watch Herman's Mary Ann McCall, incidentally. She scared a lot of bigger-names on her recent Palladium run with Woody. . . . Abe Most moved into Cezar's Hollywood eatery following the Ernie Felice Quartet, sharing the stand with Walter Gross and Bob Carroll. Most everyone thinks Most is one of the better clarinetists around (but he never won a poll; guy has no press agent or fan club). . . . Louie Jordan leaves the west coast, definitely, on April 13. His "Look Out" picture, just finished, is a scream. And good musically, too. . . . That March 9 opening at the L. A. Congo Club was somethin' special as Charlie (Crown Prince) Waterford, shouting son of a pious Arkansas minister, bellowed the blues against Les Young's hopping horn (that's hopping, not bopping, Mr. Printer). . . . Roy Milton not only worked for free a community concert in L. A. in the current campaign to k.o. juve delinquency, but he wrote a personal check for 500 pounds of hot dogs and enough soda pop to sail Tom Dorsey's yacht. A great little man, that Milton, and certainly one of the best drummer-chanters around in these bleak and noisy days of frustrated, off-the-beat foot peddle paradiddles.

For Sale: Virtually Any Hollywood Nitery

WANNA' BUY a night club? Hollywood has a dozen of 'em for sale, including Billy Berg's renowned den. Berg decided, to peddle his jernt when the magnificent songs of Ella Fitzgerald failed to draw last month, but finding no buyer, he will probably reopen again in mid-April using cheap, unknown talent. Ella fared okay at a Gene Norman concert after closing at Berg's a week early, then she speeded east as fast as she could scoot. . . . That Down Beat ad for bebop caps brought chuckles. The little hole in each cap, says Gertie Gipson, is "specially" designed so your top will go straight through when you blow it. . . . And Joel Murcott reports that when Freddy Martin saw the MGM short he made (produced by Martin Block) he telephoned Block and protested the numerous shots of the fiddle section, the reeds, the piano keys, etc. "Why did you have me go to the studio?" Martin asked. "I could have telephoned my part."

Big Rags Leap Aboard Kenton's Gravy Train As Tour Hits Dixie



With the national mags finally tumbling across each other to outdo the others in publicizing Stan Kenton's current — and fantastically successful—concert tour, the lean and lank Kenton headed into the deep South on April 1 to present additional concerts before audiences which have never before seen the Artistry in Rhythm gang in person.

Time, Newsweek and many a lesser rag published stories and photos on Stan last month, nearly seven years since he launched his group at a tiny California ballroom. Until now, except for being selected as "band of the year" by Look mag in the fall of 1945, Kenton's powerful and distinctive music couldn't rate a break with the big mass-circulation slicks published in the east.

Tough Schedule Ahead

June Christy remains the Kenton sparrow, with an April Fool's date scheduled at Columbia, S. C. Kingsport, Tenn., is booked for April 2, Knoxville on April 3 and then Nashville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Cedar Rapids and cities in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Minnesota will follow in that order throughout the April month. The April itinerary will be concluded the week of 23-29 in Minneapolis.

The Kenton saga obviously has reached its climax. Completely abandoning the pop tunes and Tin Pan Al-

PHI SIGMA KAPPAS at the University of Illinois toast June Christy, currently on tour with Stan Kenton's powerful troupe, during one of the Kenton concert intermissions. Full details below.

ley ditties, Kenton is now offering original instrumentals, originals by Pete Rugolo, his chief arranger, and special material clefled for Christy. Bongo drums, stratospherish trumpets, bopping tenor and massive ensemble dissonances are the bait which the aggressive Kansas-born pianist now uses to attract new fans.

His Music 'Scientific'

Kenton's radical views on music are difficult to transcribe on paper, for he claims he is not a bebop fan, nor does he admit any liking for the music of his rival contemporary bands. He has always detested Dixieland. He says he is convinced that jazz will overtake classical music and become more popular. He insists that the piano is unnecessary in a rhythm section but ar-

gues that at least two drummers are vital for an "exciting" beat. Stan likewise declares that the "heart" music of Louis Armstrong, for example, is strictly passe and that modern jazz must be "scientific."

Scientific or not, Kenton is pulling 'em in at the box-office. In every city they hang out the SRO signs. Some musicians and some music fans may not like what Kenton is doing. But apparently they'll all pay to see him do it in the flesh.

At Carnegie Hall, New York, Stan pulled a one-night gross of \$8,830 for a new house record. The musty old home of the longhairs was sold out two weeks in advance. At Down Beat's Chi concert, sold out 15 days ahead, a fancy take of \$11,192 was registered—an other house record for the Civic Opera House. New marks were set, also, in Philly, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and a half-dozen smaller cities within the last 60 days.

Artistry in Rhythm is paying off. At last.

NEW!
NELLIE LUTCHER
ALBUM
SIX TOP TUNES! Nellie at her Captivating best!
Capitol Album CC-70



VINE STREET GAB this month was pegged around the activities of these jazzmen, veterans all, who cut "South Rampart Street Parade" and a hokey version (with a Lombardo ending) of "Mama Inez" with Nappy Lamare. Lamare calls the combo the Louisiana Levee Loungers. Front row—Lou McGarity, Ray Bauduc, Eddie Miller and Matty Matlock. Rear—Marvin Ashbaugh, Leader Lamare, Artie Shapiro, Doc Rando and Johnny Best. The record has just been released by Capitol.

—Photo by Otto Rothschild



DIXIELAND JAZZ continues on the upbeat in popularity throughout the Southern California area. Apparently the few remaining bop fanatics from 1945 are tossing in the towel; collectors making guest appearances on the numerous jock shows are preponderantly collectors of vintage pressings. Pete Daily's Chicagoans actually did turnaway business at the Hollywood Hangover Club while Ella Fitzgerald, less than a block away and with Vic Dickenson's band on tap, laid an omelet strong enough to force Billy Berg to put his bistro up for sale.

Wingy Manone has been doing great at the New Frolics Cafe on South Broadway. Pee-Wee Hunt's two-beat gang has been held over at the Mirabelle. Nappy Lamare, now operating his own nitery, the Club 47 in the Valley, reports turnaway biz with his ex-Crosby pals Ed Miller, Ray Bauduc, Matty Matlock, Doc Rando and scores of others (none partial to bop) sitting in frequently on blues, stomps and New Orleans classics dating back to Ferd Morton.

Even Gene Norman, youthful air guitarist and concert promoter, turned to Dixie for his March 27 and 28 concerts at San Diego and Pasadena, teaming Benny Goodman with the old Bobcats. And this month, to top off the renaissance, Capitol just released Nappy Lamare's free-swinging, revamped version of "South Rampart Street Parade" in answer to growing demand for music in the two-beat manner.

Then Ed (Kid) Ory, grandpappy of a trombone players, was boffo on his most recent L. A. stand last month; the Kid is hot enough, as a matter of record, to be in demand on the road this spring. And so he will cut out in April on a tour which many a more highly-publicized youngster (including several poll winners) was unable to book.

Rumored next to invade Hollywood is Nick Esposito, San Francisco leader of a small hot combo which leans to the Dixie groove. Nick is likely to open at Billy Berg's about April 14, at \$800 a week. But Berg has frantically been trying to sell the spot in recent weeks and there's considerable doubt of the boogie future. Biz is strictly from Dixie, it seems, and so's the music these days.

Film Brass Banking On Musicals

Nostalgic Themes Best B-O Bets

Along with the revival of Al Jolson, Dixieland jazz and old-time tunes such as "Peg O' My Heart" and "Four-Leaf Clover," there also is being revived, in Hollywood, a series of motion picture musicals featuring nostalgic stories and ditties, most of them based on prominent showfolk and songwriters.

Warner Brothers just finished one, another is virtually completed and a third is ready to go.

Three For MGM Also

"April Showers," Jack Carson-Ann Sothern topliner, is scheduled for April release. "One Sunday Afternoon," starring Dennis Morgan and Janis Paige, a Technicolor musical version of the stage hit, is in production.

In preparation is "Silver Lining," Marilyn Miller biography. This also is in Technicolor and will star June Haver.

MGM has a trio of period musicals headed by "Summer Holiday," a musical version of "Ah Wilderness," starring Mickey Rooney and Gloria de Haven. Also completed is "Easter Parade," Irving Berlin film spotlighting Fred Astaire, Judy Garland and Peter Lawford. Soon to start production is "Words and Music," story of songwriters Rodgers and Hart.

Allied Artists turned to deeper melodies to film "Song of My Heart," life of composer Peter Tchaikowsky.

A quartet of old-timers is listed on the 20th-Fox roster, headed by the imminent "Burlesque," which will star Betty Grable and Dan Dailey. They recently completed "Mother Wore Tights," highlighting well-known tunes of last generation. Studio has a finished, "That Lady in Ermine," musical laid in 1880 with Betty Grable again starred with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.; and is preparing "Wabash Avenue," life story of Gus Kahn, slated to include



JUMPIN' JOE Lutter soon goes on tour after completing his first year as a bandleader in California. A veteran with combat experience, Joe made plans for a band of his own while in the navy. His newest biscuit pairs "No-Name Boogie" with "Hit the Block." And he plays a lot of alto.

many songs hits clefled by the famous tunesmith.

Paramount lists a pair of recently-completed pictures, "Blue Skies," Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Joan Caulfield starring, with musical action initiating at 1901, and "Emperor Waltz." Latter film again stars Crosby with Joan Fontaine.

Music Sure Box-Office

Columbia is shooting "Sweetheart of the Blues" starring Gloria Jean and others. Berle Adams is producing his own pic, "Look Out," which stars Louis Jordan, the Jordan band and top Negro thespians. It's a western, with music predominating.

And thus does Hollywood hope to beat the bugaboo of failing box-office receipts, foreign taxes, etc. When the chips are down, the movie moguls turn to music. By now it's a tradition.



RARIN' TO jump again, with a new band to be organized in April, Jimmy Dorsey is in the pink after three months of rest at his home in Toluca Lake, Calif. Look for Jimmy to make big news shortly. He knows what he wants.

Kenton To Play In H'wood Bowl

Arrangements have been made for Stan Kenton, following his present tour in the East, South and Midwest, to arrive in California and tee off a new series of west coast engagements with a formal concert in world-famed outdoor Hollywood Bowl.

Kenton is set for June 12. The Bowl event will mark his first California date since his band departed sunny climes, last October, for eastern commitments. His wife Violet, meanwhile, and their daughter Leslie leased their Hollywood hilltop house and are now on the road with Stan. There have been no changes within the band the past month.



KAY STARR

With Dave Cavanaugh's Music

'YOU'VE GOT TO SEE MAMA EV'RY NIGHT
(Or You Can't See Mama At All!)

'MERCY, MERCY, MERCY'

Capitol Record No. 497

GORDON MACRAE

With Orchestra Conducted by Carlyle Hall

Capitol Record No. 15041

'MATINEE'

'THAT FEATHERY FEELIN'

A rhythm styling

MacRae Piping In ABC Slot; Martin Exits

Gordon MacRae moved over from CBS to the ABC network last month as the star of the "Bings-day" program for Texaco which Tony Martin formerly held down.

Also featured with MacRae in the new time slot are Evelyn Knight, Victor Young's studio ork and Comic Alan Young. All are holdovers from the Martin stanza.

Ed Cashman produces.

MacRae has completed work in his first movie, "The Fighting Terror," and is prepared to start a second one, at Warner Brothers, shortly. He now airs every Wednesday right after Bing Crosby, on the same net.

Mrs. MacRae, meanwhile, helped celebrate Gordie's achievements by presenting him with a son. They already had two daughters.

Venuti Prepping 7-Man Combo

Joe Venuti is rehearsing a new California combo of seven men, headed by his own hot fiddle, and GAC has booked him to open at the College Inn, Kansas City, May 11, to be followed by dates in Chicago and other key cities. Venuti recently got a big boost, publicity-wise, by virtue of his guest shots on Bing Crosby's show. Kay Starr, who sang with Joe for several years, won't be with his new combo. She's doing too well on her own.

H-O For Jack Fina

Jack Fina's band of Southern Californians has drawn a holdover ticket at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, Calif., and will remain there through May 11. Russ Morgan follows him.



HERE'S THAT Julia Lee gal, whose husky chanting of "That's What I Like" and "Crazy World" are expected to top her boffo "King Size Papa" and "Snatch And Grab It" platter successes of recent months. Julia comes to California twice every year to etch wax, then she returns to her job at Milton's in Kansas City. She's in her fourteenth consecutive year at the spot!

—Otto Rothschild Photo

Ted Dale in H'wood

Ted Dale is back in his home town, Hollywood, to conduct on the Carnation Contented program via NBC every Monday. The show moved here from New York March 1.

Meet the Jock!

AI "SLEEPY" STEIN works the Gila monster territory, coming on in monster fashion himself as a stirrups-star on KARV in Mesa, Ariz. His "1400 Club" is aired nearly 12 hours every week, Stein leans heavily on pop and jazz needlings, nixing westerns and what he calls "schmaltz" plates without wincing. Guy has a screwball delivery and can boast of experience on stations in such civilized centers as New York, Chicago, Indianapolis and Charleston, W. Va. Even the Gila monsters like him.



L. A. Soon To Greet Lutch

For one week at the Detroit Paradise Theater starting April 23, Nellie Lutch will receive \$2,500.

The real gone gal, currently doing a two-weeker at the Oriental in Chicago's Loop, will follow her Detroit engagement with a run at the Kavakos Club in Washington, D. C., starting April 30. Her manager, Carlos Gastel, also has announced that Nellie will return to Los Angeles—her home now—sometime in May to perform at one of the swank Sunset Strip niteries. The Lutch album, meanwhile, hopped into the best-seller lists a week after it was released nationally.

'Stardust Road' Next For Films

Hoagy Carmichael's life story will be next for the screen. "The Stardust Road" is slated to get the green light on May 1.

Triangle Productions has acquired the property from Carmichael, Indiana songwriter and musician, who also is set to serve as technical advisor. Triangle is headed by Buddy Rogers, a former band-leader himself, and his wife, Mary Pickford.

Eddy Duchin Resuming?

Beverly Hills offices of MCA confirm that Eddy Duchin, who has confined his activities to radio since the war, may soon be leading a band again. The pianist, now in New York, expects to make up his mind by April 30.

Copland Views Movies As Strong Challenge To Modern Composers

Some believe he is the leading American composer. Some compare him with the Europeans Debussy, Delius and Milhaud. Aaron Copland's original scores for "Our Town" and "Of Mice and Men" are still hailed as among the most memorable in cinema history.

And now the same Mr. Copland is back in Hollywood, creating a new score for a new movie.

It is all taking place out at Republic Studios in North Hollywood, where Lewis Milestone is producing John Steinbeck's "The Red Pony" for release in late 1948 to America's film houses.

The Man Tells All

Movie music never rates much attention from critics, it was pointed out, and even the record companies rarely take seriously original music for a film. How does Copland feel about this situation?

"I certainly think that music critics should review the more pretentious movie scores," he said. "By taking time off from 10 debut recitals of interest only to families and friends they could hear possibly the 10 best scores of the year and thus help to inform the public and mold taste in a medium that reaches millions. Producers also need this sort of guidance—that is proved by some of the composers they now employ to write their scores.

"Interest in movie music presumes an interest in such hybrid forms as ballet and opera. While a great deal of film music must be written as background for dialogue, the best of it is written for the silent passages, and in that respect it is no different from ballet music.

"As for what you call mechanical restrictions, composers are always surrounded by restrictions when they write. Any form they adopt, as a passacaglia or a fugue, is in a sense a restriction. And every time they score for orchestra they are restricted by the limitations of the instruments.

"The principal restriction of movie scores is having to write in small two or three-minute forms—the equivalent of piano pieces or songs. But there are also larger opportunities. For instance, in 'The Red Pony' I will have to write one six-minute sequence to de-

scribe a fight with a vulture which will offer a great deal of scope. I find that having to relate music to a picture is a stimulus rather than a restriction. It sets the imagination going.

Public Influenced

"Movie music has made the public musically more sophisticated. With so many millions listening their taste is unconsciously formed. Music has always advanced harmonically through stage works — as Wagner's 'Tristan and Isolde,' Debussy's 'Pelleas and Melisande,' and Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring.' Movie music now can go well beyond the average of radio. In the vulture sequence, for example, I will be able to write dissonant music that will be entirely acceptable.

"In proof that movie music has become more sophisticated, look at some of the present scores, which now imitate the styles of Hindemith, Stravinsky and Bartok, where once Richard Strauss and Tschaikowsky were the models. But no one seems to be able to find a new formula for love music—it never gets beyond 'Tristan.' I have never had to write a really grown-up love scene. There was a boy and girl affair in 'Our Town' and a kiss in 'North Star'—but it was a young kind of kiss. I confess I don't know how I would handle the problem if ever I should have to face it.

Also . . . No Outside Blood

"The worst feature of most present film music is the kind of orchestral fabric to which the public has become accustomed. If they are not constantly bathed in a certain type of sound they appear to think that something is wrong. We should develop a true movie music style—in the best sense, as we now have operatic and ballet styles. The style should be simplified. It is now



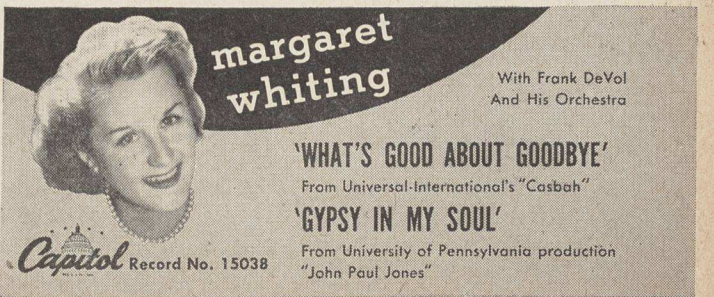
AARON COPLAND, distinguished American composer who now is writing original music for Republic's "The Red Pony" picture, sounds off with extreme candor in the adjacent columns.

too complex, too close to the symphonic style as we know it in the concert hall.

"One of the weaknesses of Hollywood film music is that it doesn't get outside blood often enough. It has become a closed fortress. There is not sufficient room made for ideas coming in from the outside. That is understandable but it is not good for the industry—nor for the composers who are already here. It has all coagulated too soon. Screen music needs a Wagner—and a patron like King Ludwig to permit more experimentation."



'I'VE ONLY MYSELF TO BLAME'
Vocal by King Cole
'THE GEEK'
Instrumental in the be-bop manner
Capitol Record No. 15036





IT HAPPENED recently on Bing Crosby's Bingsday night show. The Groaner (center) played host to Dick Haymes and Jim Durante. Then Crosby upped and left for his new ranch in Nevada, from where he will train to New York this month to gander a few early-season ball games and watch the progress of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Bing still hopes to do a movie in England this year.



THAT'S JOE E. Brown latching a rare, unmuted bugle solo by Charlie Spivak, whose band is the current attraction at the Hollywood Palladium. Spivak's crew followed Woody Herman's in mid-March. Back in 1943, Charlie and Brown appeared together in a Betty Grable movie . . . "Pin-Up Girl."

MARGARET WHITING topped off her recent "command performance" for President Truman, Washington, by planing back to California and a short vacation — between broadcasts — at Palm Springs. Daughter of the late, great songwriter Richard Whiting, Mag will return to the east shortly. En route to New York, she will visit scads of radio stations for a personal look-see into various disc jock shows.





Martin Pacts Two Pianists

When Freddy Martin's pianist Barclay Allen pulled out of Martin's band recently to form his own group for a run at Ciro's Martin decided to take no chances in the future. He hired two pianopounders.

First it was Jack Fina who became prominent with Martin at the 88. He left, more than a year ago, to form his own band. Then it was Murray Arnold. Last year he left t. f. h. o. band.

Allen replaced Arnold, and when Allen cut out last month t. f. h. o. band, Martin flipped. He signed Marvin Wright, formerly with Jimmy Dorsey, and Roger Striker, KLAC's music director.

Freddy will present both pianists when his band assembles in San Francisco on April 6, at Hotel Saint Francis, following a vacation.

Dave Rose, Skelton Plan All-Summer Tour

When the Kool show fades off NBC next month, Red Skelton and Dave Rose will complete their plans to make a long tour together during the summer months. Skelton is busy now at MGM after winding up "Fuller Brush Man" at Columbia.

JACK BENNY has featured them for years. Introducing the Sportsmen, vocal quartet famed for their hmmm style. Left to right are Bill Days, Marty Sperzel, Gurney Bell and Max Smith. You've probably heard them hmmm the "Helen Polka." Hmmm.

Meet the Jock!

JIM WHITAKER is 31, has resided in 17 states and admits to being a former newspaper reporter. Since 1941, except for four years with the Signal Corps, he has spun discs on WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va. A dead shot with a rifle, Jim's other hobbies include collecting jazz wax and cooking. Unmarried, he's as tall as Kenton, weighs 185, and his shows pull



mail regularly from 26 states and ships at sea. His ambition is to do an "unrestricted" all-night program, where he could try some pet ideas. Latch him at 1170 on the dial.

Ike Carpenter Gigs

The L. A. Avodon Ballroom will offer Ike Carpenter's Duke-styled ork for the April 9 and 16 weekends.

That Guy Guy's Grove Opening On April 13

Relaxed after a vacation spent in Florida tinkering with and racing his speedboat, Guy Lombardo, his brothers and his bandmen will open at the Coconut Grove of the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel on April 13 for four weeks.

Joe Reichman is the current Grove bandstand attraction.

Lombardo, whose last California visit was three years ago, for a movie at MGM, was booked by MCA into the Ambassador in a desperate move to keep the room's management from booking bands offered by a rival booking agency, General Artists Corp.

Later, however, GAC cracked the spot anyway. GAC attraction Ernie Felice already is playing the Ambassador. And more are coming.

Mel Henke in Debut On Otis' KLAC Air

Brilliant Chicago pianist Mel Henke, who last month moved his family to Los Angeles, made his bow to California audiences March 5 on Don Otis' popular nightly program over KLAC. Henke will live in Los Angeles permanently, doubling radio and niteries.

Cugat Gets Booking

Xavier Cugat has okayed a May 13 opening at the New York Waldorf-Astoria hostelry after laying a bomb at Ciro's and the Million Dollar Theater in L. A.

Les Young in L. A.

Tenor-playing Lester Young is making his first nitery appearance in several years at the Club Congo on Central Avenue in L. A., where he followed Roy Milton March 9.

Nat Cole, Wife On Honeymoon In Old Mexico

Nat (King) Cole and his bride, the former singer, Marie Ellington, are off to Mexico City on a honeymoon slated to last until the King Cole Trio resumes its professional activities at the Regal Theater in Chicago the week of April 9-15.

The pianist and former Duke Ellington canary were wed in New York March 28 after a two-year romance.

On April 16, Nat and his partners (Johnny Miller, bass, and Irv Ashby, guitar) will open in Omaha at the Orpheum Theater. After a week in the Cornhusker city they'll go to Minneapolis for the April 23-29 week and to the Lake Club in Springfield, Ill., on April 30 for still another seven-night engagement.

Cole, son of a Protestant minister, had never before been to Mexico. Neither had his bride been there. Mrs. Cole is not related to the Duke of Ellington, although she was featured thrush with the Duke's great band for several seasons.

New Felice Location

Ernie Felice and his Quartet moved from Cezar's to the comfy Casino Room of the L. A. Ambassador Hotel March 9 and will hold forth indefinitely. Joe Reichman's band is holding forth in the some hotel's Coconut Grove.

Sketch Back to Chi

Sketch Henderson's band, which closed at the Chicago Hotel Stevens on March 8, returned there on March 27 and will remain the attraction until late May. His crew still has not been booked to return to California, despite rumors.



MEET THE BRIDE . . . Yes, it's Mrs. Nat Cole, who was married to the fly leader of the King Cole Trio in New York City March 28 after a romance of two years. She's the former Marie Ellington. Now on a honeymoon, Nat and his bride will return to Chicago April 9 for the trio's opening day at the Regal Theater.

—Gene Howard Photo

As Louie Said To Wingy: 'They Love You In Paree'

Louis Armstrong and his manager, Joe Glaser, returned to New York after Armstrong's triumphal personal appearance, with his band, at Hugues Panassie's French Jazz Festival last month. And both reported a "surprisingly rabid" demand for Wingy Manone to make the trip and play for French jazz enthusiasts. Glaser, of course, manages Manone too.

And so Manone, one of the old-time New Orleans trumpeters and singers who has become a legend in the profession, intends to sail for Paris in late April. He has been active in Hollywood, re-

cently, making movies and appearing nightly at the New Frolics Cafe on South Broadway. He said he would remain abroad at least a month, and that he would make no attempt to do personal appearances in Great Britain.

If the trek across the Atlantic goes off as Wingy hopes, he will take a crew comprising Johnny Brent, drums; Bill Campbell, piano; Bert Johnson, trombone; Art Lyons, clarinet who was a star of the old Jack Teagarden outfit, and, in Wingston's own words, "maybe a bass-player."

Look out, France! That drop-beat's on its way.

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YOU THINK Bing Crosby's boys were thrilled when Walt Disney, on March 1, signed them (and their fadder) to appear in Disney's forthcoming "Two Fabulous Characters" film?

Naw. Philip, Gary, Dennis and Lindsay Crosby are too excited about the Pittsburgh Pirates, in training at Hollywood's Gilmore Stadium not far from the Crosby residence. Pop owns a sizable chunk of the Pirate club and it wasn't difficult for him—and his kids—to crash the gate at spring training.

As for the picture, Bing will narrate "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and chant three tunes. He won't be seen. But his four sons will, marking their first "official" appearance in the cinema.

Trumpet-tooting Leonard Sues will be seen in a spot in Columbia's "Sweetheart of the Blues" musical.

Woody Herman's herd wound up work for George Pal's "Tom Thumb" production. Ralph Burns did the arranging.

Kingpin Gillespie didn't get to play in England after all. He was all set to, on the basis that his gyroscopic product is educational rather than entertaining, when the British Musicians' Union reversed itself and nixed him out. Chubby Jackson also returned to the States from Scandinavia without having performed in England. Stranded in Stockholm, flat broke after his concert series, the American consul there managed to arrange boat passage home for the "Happy Monster" bassist and his sidemen.

Arnold Ross accompanied Billy Eckstine on Billy's recent engagement, as a single, at the L. A. Cricket Club.

Virginia Maxey doing a color short at Paramount.



RAY STARR, and please don't confuse him with Kay Starr, bagged Sam Donahue's chirp, Shirley Lloyd, last month for an interview on Starr's KAYX program in Waterloo, Ia. About all that Ray found out was that Shirley is unmarried and that Kay Starr is one of the greatest fem canaries in the land.

Ava Gardner will be seen singing "Speak Low" in Universal-International's "One Touch of Venus" musical, and presumably without a double. Dick Haymes is in it too.

With licenses to use many of her famous hit songs on the soundtrack, MCM is going ahead with plans to film the career of Sophie Tucker. Sophie prefers Judy Garland for the starring role but it isn't likely that Judy will do it. Sophie opens on May 31 at the Casino Theater in London. The pic will be titled, natch, "Some of These Days."

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GAC's Carle Soon Due At Cocoanut Grove

Frankie Carle and his band are booked for a May 11 opening at the Cocoanut Grove of Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles, marking the first time since 1934 that the spot has hired anything but Music Corp. of America talent. Miguelito Valdes follows Carle on June 15.

Carle, last seen at the Palladium here, was forced to cancel March bookings to fly to the bedside of his daughter, Marjorie Hughes, who has been ailing in a Hollywood hospital. She was reported greatly improved at press time.

Carle's music will follow Guy (MCA) Lombardo's at the Grove. Sammy Kaye, another GAC-booked band, is reported to be set for a Cocoanut Grove stint late this summer. He, too, last played the Palladium when west coasting.

GAC, headed by Tom Rockwell, also books the Stan Kenton band. But Kenton, when he returns to California this summer, undoubtedly will not go into the Grove. He hopes to play several concerts and a location "sitdown" at the Palladium.

Mute That Horn And Bag a Job!

Muted trumpets seem to be the current craze at the Hollywood Palladium.

Charlie Spivak's band, now holding down the ornate Pally stand, will be succeeded on April 27 by Henry Busse. Both leaders established reps via soft, scarcely-audible trumpet solos, most of them muted.

Busse will close on May 31. Spivak pulls out April 25. Woody Herman left on March 14.

10-Year-Old Chirp For 'Blues' Film

Little Toni Harper, 10-year-old canary who is receiving national publicity now after guest shots on the Eddie Cantor show, and who was hailed more than a year ago in the Capitol News as a mopey pet with unusual singing talents, will make her celluloid bow in "Sweetheart of the Blues" which Sam Katzman is producing for Columbia. Chicklet will chirp "Jingle Bell Jive" and "Candle Store Blues." She's the niece of Budd Harper, popular L. A. guitarist, arranger, composer and maestro.



RUTH ETTING is back in Hollywood. Long absent, she recently concluded a 39-week stint on a New York radio station after a decade spent in retirement in the Midwest.

The wife of Myrl Alderman, musician, Ruth intends to work on a script based on her long career as one of the nation's top singers. It is more than likely that a film studio will grab it for a full-length production.

Betty Garrett and Judy Garland will do most of the singing—along with Mick Rooney—in MGM's forthcoming "Words and Music" musical which will more or less be hinged on the spectacular success of the songwriting team of Rodgers and Hart.

Blonde Vera-Ellen has just been signed for an important role, too, and it is probable that Tom Drake will also find a role, probably that of Richard Rodgers. Rooney will be Hart. If you can imagine that.

Sam Katzman's sequel to his recently-completed "I Surrender, Dear" film at Columbia, with Gloria Jean, Dave Street, Jack Leonard, Dave Garroway, Pete Potter, Jack Eigen and others featured, will be titled "Sweetheart of the Blues." Art Dreifuss will direct it, and there will be lots of songs, perhaps a band or two and Gloria Jean again in a lead part.

Andy Russell's new Mutual program, inaugurated March 11 with the Pied Pipers, Marion Hutton and Ray Sinatra's studio band, will continue to emanate from KJH in Hollywood until commitments force Russell to leave Filmtown.

Les Brown's singers, Ray Kellogg and Eileen Wilson, upped and got married—to each other—last month. Came as quite a surprise to the band's fans.

Pearl Bailey is having a ball at Paramount, where she's working in "Isn't It Romantic?" Film marks her second celoid assignment on the Marathon lot.

Johnnie Johnston and his bride of last August, Kathryn Grayson, announced they were expecting a young singer. But not until next fall.



CAN YOU top this? The man, we mean. He is known throughout California as "the world's tallest announcer" and Peggy Lee and Kay Starr, shown above, can't get near him—even in high heels. Carl Bailey spins biscuits on Pasadena's KXLA. He, Al Jarvis and Don Otis are the only three spikers west of Chicago who have actually been jocks more than 15 years.

Nancy and Frank Sinatra, likewise, are anticipating again—their third. Sinatra has dropped his plans to construct and operate a radio station in Palm Springs. He's looking forward to 13 weeks of vacation from the Hit Parade soon.

With Dick Haymes reported losing the Auto-Lite show any broadcast now, it actually won't affect the baritone much. He's one of the busiest young guys in Hollywood these days, finishing up a lead role in U-I's "One Touch of Venus" and trying to increase the hours in his logbook. Dick is a flying fanatic, and recently had to set his trim little ship down in an alfalfa field when the gas ran out. For a recent photo of Sir Richard in action, latch that pose with Crosby and Schnoz on Page 8.

Peggy Lee On NBC April 3

With all California raving about her spectacular triumph as a nitery single at Ciro's ornate Hollywood nitery, Peggy Lee and her hubby, Dave Barbour, will take over the King Cole Trio's Saturday NBC program for Wildroot on April 3, while Cole and his bride are honeymooning south of the border.

Peggy and Dave will air from Hollywood. The Cole Trio will resume its series April 10, broadcasting from Chicago.



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Answer Call For Music



IT'S A POTENT package that Philip Morris has wrapped and delivered Friday nights over CBS from Hollywood on its "Call For Music" series. Harry James, left, leads the band. Dinah Shore and Johnny Mercer pipe the

lyrics. It's strictly a Confederate deal what with James being Texas-reared, Dinah hailing from Tennessee and Mercer proud of his Georgia upbringing. Stirred well, they produce a gob of southern-fried entertainment.